

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Dr. Smithers House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bohemia Avenue, east side, 2nd building south of Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Delmar Smithers, Estate

Telephone #: (301) 885-5577

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Margaret Smithers

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake City

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21915

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, Cecil County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: HWL No. 3

Folio #: 584

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Building

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smithers House is a three bay wide, two bay deep three story frame dwelling built upon a stone foundation. Stylistically it is influenced by the Greek Revival elements of design. Its walls are covered with grey weatherboard and the trim is white. Across the facade of the first story is a turn of the century porch supported on three handsome posts with plain balustrade between. The door is located on the north side of the west facade. It has two vertical panels and there is a three pane transom. The window trim is like the barber shop across the street. It has original 6/6 sash on the first and second storys, and 3/3 sash on the third, like the Benson house, McLean house, and the Levredge-Smithers house to the south. The first story shutters are paneled and those above are louvered, painted black.

The cornice has a row of dentils between the down spout boxes, the latter bearing the date 1848. The gently sloping 'A' roof is covered with raised seam tin and possesses a gutter within the slope of the roof.

One of the attractive features of the building is the landscaping along the front of the porch which affords privacy to those who sit upon the porch.

At the rear of the dwelling is a two bay one story wing of the same period with a leanto on its east side overlooking the garden.

The house is one of the best maintained properties in South Chesapeake City. Other buildings have the same potential if they follow the example of this building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Smithers House is one of the principal buildings in Chesapeake City. It represents the second phase of building in the town when the Greek Revival style was in vogue. Its two room deep plan is similar to its neighbor to the south, but is unlike the others of that period which were mostly one room deep. It is a prime example of original details from the late 1840's.

Firman Layman probably built this house as the inscription on the eave shows, in 1848. At his death in 1881, he willed this house and the two tenant houses on the south side of Second Street to his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Pryor, who in turn left it to her son, William J. Pryor. Elizabeth Ann also inherited all the furniture and fixtures from her father's hotel, The Bayard House, down by the Canal.

William J. Pryor, proprietor of the Park Hotel on the north side of the Canal, transferred this property to Waitman Smithers in 1911. Mr. Smithers was a toll collector on the Canal and later superintendent of the Canal. His father, John Smithers owned the house two doors south of this one from 1869 to 1878. Four generations of the Smithers family have made their homes in this block of Bohemia Avenue, Chesapeake City; John Smithers, his son Waitman, his son Delmar, and Delmar's two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, who live in this house now. Delmar Smithers served the community as a dentist.

This fine home has architectural significance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne & Katherine Wein

April 20, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Chesapeake City Historic District Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o Town Council of Chesapeake City

(301) 885-5298

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Chesapeake City

Maryland 21915

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

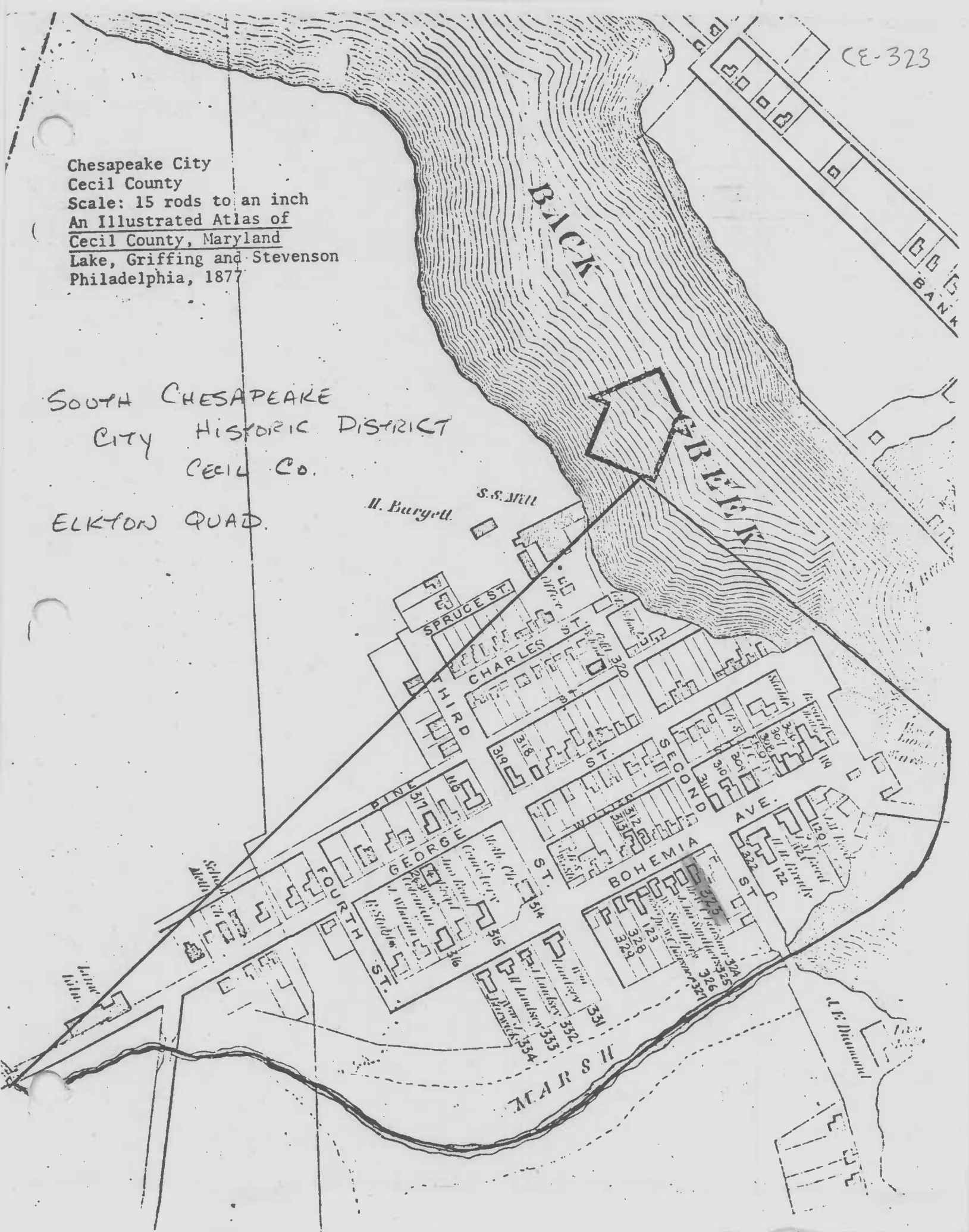
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CE-323

Chesapeake City
Cecil County
Scale: 15 rods to an inch
An Illustrated Atlas of
Cecil County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
Philadelphia, 1877

SOUTH CHESAPEAKE
CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT
CECIL CO.

ELKTON QUAD.





Dr. Smithers House

CE- 323

West facade

M. Bourne April 1976



CE 323

South Chesapeake City

7/73

Dr. Smithers' house JSE